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on their own active duty service for the same course; and

(2) Are not subject to the 48 months limit on training provided for in § 21.4020 when combining transferred entitlement with their own entitlement earned under 38 U.S.C. chapter 33 as long as the only educational assistance paid is under 38 U.S.C. chapter 33. If the dependent is awarded educational assistance under another program listed in § 21.4020 (other than 38 U.S.C. chapter 33), the 48 months limit on training will apply.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034(a), 3319, 3322, 3323(a), 3695)

COUNSELING

§ 21.9580 Counseling.

An individual may receive counseling from VA before beginning training and during training. VA will apply the provisions of § 21.7100 to beneficiaries under 38 U.S.C. chapter 33 in the same manner as they are applied to individuals under 38 U.S.C. chapter 30.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034(a), 3323(a), 3697A)

§ 21.9585 Travel expenses.

VA will not pay for any costs of travel to and from the place of counseling regardless of whether the individual requests educational and vocational counseling or whether the counseling is required.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 111, 3323(c))

APPROVED PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION AND COURSES

§ 21.9590 Approved programs of education and courses.

(a) Payments of educational assistance are based on pursuit of a program of education. In order to receive educational assistance under 38 U.S.C. chapter 33, an eligible individual must—

(1) Be pursuing an approved program of education;

(2) Be pursuing refresher, remedial, or deficiency courses as these courses are defined in § 21.7020(b);

(3) Be pursuing other preparatory or special education or training courses necessary to enable the individual to

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pursue an approved program of education;

(4) Have taken an approved licensing or certification test, for which he or she is requesting reimbursement; or

(5) Be an individual who has taken a course for which the individual received tuition assistance provided under a program administered by the Secretary of a military department under 10 U.S.C. 2007(a) or (c), for which the individual is requesting educational assistance for the amount of established charges not covered by military tuition assistance.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3313, 3323(a), 3689)

(b) *Approval of the selected program of education.* Subject to paragraph (a), VA will approve a program of education under 38 U.S.C. chapter 33 selected by the individual if:

(1) The program meets the definition of a program of education in § 21.9505;

(2) Except for a program consisting of a licensing or certification test, the program has an educational, vocational, or professional objective as described in § 21.7020(b)(13) or (22);

(3) The courses, subjects, or licensing or certification tests in the program are approved for VA training; and

(4) Except for a program consisting of a licensing or certification test designed to help the individual maintain employment in a vocation or profession, the individual is not already qualified for the objective of the program.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034(a), 3323(a), 3471, 3689)

(c) *Change of program.* In determining whether an individual may change his or her selected program of education, VA will apply the provisions of § 21.4234.

(d) *Programs not authorized under 38 U.S.C. chapter 33.* If an individual elected to receive benefits under 38 U.S.C. chapter 33 by relinquishing eligibility under 38 U.S.C. chapter 30, or 10 U.S.C. chapter 1606 or 1607, and the eligible individual requests educational assistance for a program of education that is not authorized to be available to the individual under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. chapter 33, but is available

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under the chapter the individual relinquished, VA will provide educational assistance at the rate payable under the provisions of the relinquished chapter to the eligible individual for pursuit of any program of education that meets the approval criteria under—

(1) 38 U.S.C. chapter 30, if the individual was eligible under that chapter;

(2) 10 U.S.C. chapter 1606, if the individual was eligible under that chapter; or

(3) 10 U.S.C. chapter 1607, if the individual was eligible under that chapter.

(Authority: Pub. L. 110-252, 122 Stat. 2377)

§ 21.9600 Overcharges.

(a) *Overcharges by educational institutions may result in the disapproval of enrollments.* VA may disapprove an institution of higher learning for further enrollments if the institution of higher learning charges an individual, or receives from an individual, an amount for tuition and fees that exceeds the established charges that the institution of higher learning requires from similarly circumstanced individuals enrolled in the same course.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034(a), 3323(a), 3690(a))

(b) *Overcharges by organizations or entities offering licensing or certification tests may result in disapproval of tests.* VA may disapprove an organization or entity offering a licensing or certification test when the organization or entity offering the test charges an individual, or receives from an individual, an amount for fees that exceeds the established fees that the organization or entity requires from similarly circumstanced individuals taking the same test.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034(a), 3323(a), 3689(d), 3690(a))

PAYMENTS—EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

§ 21.9620 Educational assistance.

VA will pay educational assistance for an eligible individual's pursuit of an approved program of education. The eligible individual and/or the individual's educational institution will receive payment amounts in accordance with the formulas listed in § 21.9640. The maximum amounts of tuition and

fees payable for the upcoming academic year under 38 U.S.C. chapter 33 will be published in the "Notices" section of the FEDERAL REGISTER by the first of August of each calendar year. The maximum amounts payable may also be obtained by visiting the GI Bill Web site at <http://www.gibill.va.gov> or by calling VA's customer service department toll-free at 1-888-442-4551. The maximum amounts payable, as published, will be effective for each term, quarter, or semester that begins during the academic year.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3313, 3314, 3315, 3316, 3317)

§ 21.9625 Beginning dates.

VA will determine the beginning date of an award or increased award of educational assistance under this section, but in no case will the beginning date be earlier than August 1, 2009. When more than one paragraph in this section applies, VA will award educational assistance using the latest of the applicable beginning dates.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3313, 3316, 3323(a), 5110, 5111, 5113)

(a) *Entrance or reentrance including change of program or institution of higher learning.* When an eligible individual enters or reenters into training (including a reentrance following a change of program or institution of higher learning), the beginning date of his or her award of educational assistance will be determined as follows:

(1) *For other than a licensing or certification test.* (i) If the award is an award for the first period of enrollment for which the eligible individual began pursuing his or her program of education, the beginning date will be the latest of—

(A) The date the institution of higher learning certifies under paragraph (b) or (c) of this section;

(B) One year before the date of claim as determined by § 21.1029(b);

(C) The effective date of the approval of the program of education; or

(D) One year before the date VA receives approval notice for the program of education.

(ii) If the award is an award for a second or subsequent period of enrollment